

Taylor Sherman House
Norwalk, Connecticut

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Connecticut

Historic American Buildings Survey
Harold H. Davis, District Officer
29 Whitney Ave., New Haven, Conn.

THE TAYLOR SHERMAN HOUSE

Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut

Owner: Mrs. Jeanette Elwood, 85 Main St., Norwalk, Conn.

Date of Erection: Circa 1790

Architect or Builder: Not known

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Stone foundation
Shingled exterior walls
Tin roof
Brick chimneys
Roof of ell wooden shingles

Other Existing Records: Sellaack's History of Norwalk

List of Photographs:

1. North-East Elevation (Front)
2. Interior Detail of Entrance Door
3. Mantel Detail - North-West Room - First Floor
4. North-West Corner of Dining Room

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On the corner of Main and North Streets in Norwalk, right in the midst of the hum-drum and activity of the business district of this town, is the Taylor Sherman House. It is a hip roof structure and has two facimiles within the bounds of earlier Norwalk. They are noted as the present Gibbe House in Knight Street, before it was altered, and the Marvin House in Wilton.

It is believed that the ell was the original house and that the main house was added much later, probably about 1790. Some of the older inhabitants of Norwalk recall the mention of the old house as being a one room building with one end chimney.

The Shermans who abided in this house were very valued adopted citizens of Norwalk. Taylor Sherman was a very genial social figure and his wife knew a heritage of a highly regarded "Old Well" family. It was from this house that Charles R. Sherman, a son of Taylor, departed for the west with his group of followers in the famed Sherman "prarie schooner". It was at this time that the esteem for the Shermans was manifestly shown by the regretful adieus bid them from far and near.

From this same Sherman clan sprang such men as the famed soldier, William Tecumseh Sherman, and more recently Senator Sherman of California.

The present owner, Mrs. Jeanette Elwood, is a very public spirited woman, and even though the property could have been sold many times as a choice business corner, Mrs. Elwood has kept the house, and probably will continue to hold the house until someone will buy it for the sole purpose of restoration. Mrs. Elwood cherishes the old homestead which housed her family for so many generations after the Shermans had departed, and is very gracious about showing the house to those who are appreciative.

Sources of information: Sellack's History of Norwalk.
Conversation with Mrs. Elwood.

Author: John F. Flanagan

Approved: Harold W. Davis Date: Aug 31, 1939